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Summary prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21

Liberia*

The present report is a summary of 8 stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. As provided for in Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, where appropriate, a separate section is provided for contributions by the national human rights institution of the State under review that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

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Information provided by stakeholders

A. Background and framework

1. Scope of international obligations

1. JS1 urged Liberia to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[2]

2. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. JS1 noted that the process of examining regional and international human rights instruments to which Liberia was a party to was still ongoing. The Law Reform Commission is in charge of this responsibility. According to JS1, the process has been slow and has hampered, to some extent, the domestication of some international instruments such as the Convention against Torture and Cruel, Degrading and Inhuman Treatment and its Optional Protocols. JS1 stated that to date, the Government had not domesticated any of the human rights instruments which it has ratified.[3]

3. JS1 urged Liberia to complete the process of examining regional and international human rights instruments to which the country is party to, so as to revise its national legislation and better fulfil its regional and international obligations imposed by such instruments. It also recommended incorporating into domestic law already ratified international human rights conventions.[4] JS4 made similar comments and recommended also that Liberia empower and mandate the Law Reform Commission to ensure the harmonisation of Liberia domestic laws with international instruments including the advocacy to sign and ratify regional and international instruments.[5]

4. JS4 recommended that Liberia enact the Anti-Torture Bill as well as establish and empower the Liberia National Preventive Mechanism.[6]

5. JS3 recommended that the National Constitution Review Committee include issues affecting sexual minorities in its review process of the Constitution and propose amendments to the Constitution that strengthens the protection of women rights, people living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTI, and sexual minorities recognizing the human and sexual rights of all citizens.[7]

6. JS3 noted that the Penal Code criminalized "voluntary sodomy" by same-sex couples but not by opposite-sex couples[8] and specified the penalties for violating the prohibition of voluntary sodomy as follows: sections 50.7 and 50.9 provide that a person convicted of a misdemeanour of the first degree may be sentenced "to a definite term of imprisonment to be fixed by the court at no more than one year," and to pay a fine of up to LBR$ 1,000.[9] JS3 added that the Penal Code 14.2 sodomy law could be employed to frame and blackmail sexual minorities and it recommended repealing this law.[10]

7. JS4 reported that the Parliament was currently debating two proposed bills on further criminalizing sexual orientation.[11] JS3 stated that if these two bills were passed into law, same sex relationships would become a crime in Liberia.[12]

3. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

8. Regarding the UPR recommendations on strengthening human rights infrastructures[13], JS4 stated that the Government was showing very little effort to maintain the functioning of the human rights division within the Ministry of Justice. According to

JS4, this division lacks technical capacities and financial support and is not allowed to function freely and effectively.[14]

9. The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) noted that in its first UPR, Liberia had committed to finalise the establishment of the Independent National Commission of Human Rights (INCHR), to strengthen civil society organisations that advocate for human rights and to guarantee their participation in broader human rights efforts.[15] ISHR stated that even though the INCHR had been established, it had been largely ineffective as a monitoring institution and lacked investigative capacity.[16] ISHR added that the INCHR needed to receive stronger backing from the State and be given the tools to exercise an investigative capacity.[17]

10. Acknowledging that the INCHR was present in some parts of the country, JS1 noted that there was still a lot to be done regarding its full functionality. Currently, the Commission is still rather dependent on civil society actors to furnish it with human rights issues including breaches.[18]

11. JS1 urged Liberia to finalize the establishment of the INCHR with wide civil society involvement regarding nominations and encourage the structural strengthening of civil society organizations that advocate the promotion and protection of human rights.[19] ISHR recommended that Liberia strengthen the INCHR by incorporating and resourcing a focal point for human rights defenders and granting it investigative faculties.[20] JS4 recommended strengthening the mandate of the INCHR by returning subpoena powers to the Commission and supporting it financially adequately.[21]

12. JS3 recommended that Liberia continue to strengthen the capacity of the INHRC, the National AIDS Commission and the Ministry of Justice to investigate cases of discrimination and abuse, including of sexual minorities, and take punitive action where parties are found in violation of the law.[22]

13. JS3 recommended that Liberia establish an accountability mechanism by creating a "people living with HIV/AIDS; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) and other sexual minorities Desk" within the INHRC. This Desk should develop sexual orientation policies to protect women, girls, and boys; people living with HIV/AIDS; LGBTI; and other sexual minorities as well as to promote policies that will enable the legal system and the judiciary to abide by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for all citizens.[23]

14. JS1 urged Liberia to establish an independent National Commission on People with Disabilities with sufficient human and financial resources to exercise its action.[24]

15. JS1 stated that the Government had made tremendous efforts in the implementation of policy and legislation for the protection of vulnerable groups and that several policies and judicial reforms had been put in place to promote and protect the rights of women and children. JS1 added that the Ministry of Gender and Development had adopted a National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children' Rights for the years 2013-2018.[25]

16. JS1 also urged Liberia to take further legislative and policy measures to protect the rights of children, including by ensuring that Liberia meets its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.[26]

B. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

17. JS1 noted that following the first session of the UPR, Liberia had embarked on a process of devising and adopting an approach to implement the accepted recommendations

emanating from the review. In light of this, the Government set up a Steering Committee on the National Human Rights Action Plan for Liberia. JS1 reported that this Committee and the Ministry of Justice had coordinated the drafting of a National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) that would observe the full implementation of accepted recommendations. As of June 30, 2014, a draft NHRAP log frame with defined indicators for monitoring the Action Plan has been developed and is awaiting review at the Steering Committee meeting.[27] JS1 urged the Government to accelerate the process for the adoption of the NHRAP.[28]

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

18. JS4 stated that despite the many calls by the civil society for the preparation and submission of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Degrading and Inhuman Treatment (CAT) initial report, it had yet to be submitted. JS4 added that the Government had failed to respond to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Degrading and Inhuman Treatment (SPT) initial comments on its December 2010 visit to Liberia and that the Concluding Observations had yet to be made public and implemented.[29]

2. Cooperation with special procedures

19. In line with recommendations that Liberia had accepted during its last UPR, JS5 recommended that Liberia extend a standing invitation to the United Nations Special Procedures, particularly to invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.[30] ISHR made a similar recommendation.[31]

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

20. Equality Now noted that although the Constitution provided that either parent can pass nationality to their children, the nationality law restricts this. In effect, Liberian women cannot pass on their citizenship to their children who are born abroad, while fathers can pass on their citizenship to children born at home and abroad.[32] Equality Now stated that this distinction discriminated against women and could result in severe consequences for children such as statelessness, risk of deportation, and lack of access to publicly-funded education, health and social benefits and economic opportunities.[33]

21. Equality Now recommended that Liberia amend the sex discriminatory and any other discriminatory provision(s) in the law relating to nationality[34] and include a provision in the new Constitution which grants equal rights to men and women to transfer their nationality to their children and spouses.[35] It also recommended continuing to be inclusive of rural women in the drafting of the new Constitution and including a specific provision on gender equality.[36]

22. JS3 stated that since the end of 2011, after the national elections, there had been records of increased violations and human rights abuses of persons because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.[37] According to JS3, sexual orientation is currently used discriminatorily as a mean to prevent sexual minorities from running for public office or holding position in Government.[38] JS3 also noted that the religious groups had attributed the spread of Ebola virus to the existence of homosexuals and members of the LGBTI community.[39]

23. JS3 recommended that Liberia develop non-discrimination policies promoting diversity and equality regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in work places.[40] It

also recommended that individuals or groups of people be held accountable for on-going discrimination and abuses within law enforcement agencies and health care delivery services. There should be zero tolerance for discrimination, torture, blackmail, theft, extortion, or other hate crimes without full accountability. Finally, JS3 recommended that all patients regardless of their sexual orientation be treated with respect and dignity, without any form of discrimination.[41]

24. ISHR also recommended that Liberia condemn discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.[42]

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

25. JS4 noted that despite acceding in 2005, to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP 2), death sentences continued to be handed down, although no executions had taken place since 2000. The death penalty was retained for armed robbery, terrorism and hijacking offences resulting in death.[43] JS1 made similar comments.[44]

26. JS1 urged Liberia to repeal the July 2008 law that allows the death penalty, in line with Liberia's obligations under ICCPR-OP 2; abolish the death penalty and establish, in the meantime, a moratorium.[45]

27. JS1 noted that the Government and its partners continued to strengthen law enforcement by providing training with clear instructions to police forces to act in compliance with international human rights law. It stated that nonetheless, the police forces still acted contrary to these instructions on many occasions. According to JS1, the Professional Standard Division established for the investigation of such ethical breach does not always act or does not act in time to investigate allegations of professional misconducts by police.[46]

28. JS1 urged Liberia to strengthen law enforcement by ensuring that clear instructions are given to police forces to always act in compliance with international human rights law.[47]

29. On the implementation of UPR recommendations regarding the strengthening of law enforcement,[48] JS4 noted that officers received a human rights training only once, usually during recruitment. JS4 added that the authorities failed to exercise control and discipline and that cases of professional misconducts were not quickly handled.[49]

30. JS1 also reported that conditions of detention still remained deplorable and far below acceptable standard, although some improvement had been made over the last few years. It noted that most of the prisons were overcrowded and did not have adequate health facilities, personnel, medication and medical equipment. It added that prisoners had insufficient and poorly prepared food.[50] JS2[51] and JS4[52] made similar comments.

31. Reminding that during its first UPR, Liberia agreed to numerous recommendations on improving prison conditions; giving human rights groups' full access to detention facilities and on strengthening the criminal justice system,[53] JS2 stated that since 2010, there had been little action on pre-trial detention and conditions of detention.[54] JS4 made similar comments.[55]

32. JS1 urged Liberia to improve prison conditions and hold accountable all those who are responsible for torture and discrimination in penitentiary facilities.[56] It also urged Liberia to give human rights groups full access to detention facilities and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Degrading and Inhuman Treatment or Punishment.[57]

33. JS3 noted that serious abuses resulting from harmful traditional practices continued to occur, due in part to the absence of laws banding such act. These included female genital

mutilation, early marriages, and traditionalist not recognizing sexual behaviours amongst same sex loving gender. JS3 recommended that legislations be passed to ban harmful traditional practices.[58]

34. Equality Now noted that although Section 38 of the Children's Act bans "all forms of harmful cultural practices", Liberia did not enforce this provision and did not have a law specifically banning female genital mutilation which would send a strong message that it was a crime and must be dealt with in a comprehensive way.[59]

35. Equality Now stated that over 58.2 per cent of women had undergone female genital mutilation as an initiation rite into womanhood by different ethnic groups.[60] Although culturally entrenched, the practice is propagated by a politically influential female secret society known as the *Sande*, in which young girls that attend traditional *Sande* schools go through the process of indoctrination of social and traditional training and graduate to womanhood.[61]

36. Equality Now noted that in November 2011, the Government had taken steps towards ending female genital mutilation by persuading *Sande* leaders to suspend all activities and condemned all forms of forcible initiation into the *Sande*. Subsequently in January 2013, the Minister of Internal Affairs issued a notice to all counties directing that all *Sande* activities be shut down and underlined that violators would be held liable.[62] However, Equality Now stated that, despite the alleged ban of *Sande* activities, these continued to be carried out, and it added that women in practicing communities had little choice but to adhere to tradition if they were to be considered full members of the community.[63]

37. Equality Now recommended that Liberia, *inter alia*, enact and enforce a law prohibiting female genital mutilation;[64] institute protective mechanisms that will guarantee protection to all women and girls from undergoing female genital mutilation and ensure the Government's suspension of *Sande* FGM activities is enforced.[65]

38. JS3 stated that the incidence of rape of women, girls and boys was alarmingly high, despite positive efforts by the Government. According to JS3, while public reporting and police response have improved in recent years, efforts to prosecute these cases continued to be hampered by deficiencies in the judicial system.[66]

39. JS4 recommended that Liberia strengthen the Women and Children Protection Units with the needed capacities to fully gather evidences and investigate sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) cases.[67]

40. JS1 urged Liberia to continue to prioritise and implement policies and legislation to address violence against women and the enforcement of the National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action.[68]

41. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (GIEACPC) noted that in the first UPR of Liberia, no recommendations had been made specifically concerning corporal punishment of children but the Government had accepted a number of recommendations to reform its laws to comply with international human rights standards, including children's rights.[69]

42. GIEACPC mentioned that the Children's Law 2011 provides limited protection from violent childrearing but does not make all corporal punishment unlawful.[70] It added that corporal punishment was unlawful in some but not all alternative care settings,[71] and that it was explicitly prohibited as a disciplinary measure in all penal institutions accommodating children in conflict with the law.[72]

43. Reporting a high prevalence of corporal punishment of children,[73] GIEACPC urged Liberia to complete the process of law reform by ensuring the drafting and enactment of

legislation clearly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home.[74]

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

44. Regarding the UPR recommendations on the judiciary reform,[75] JS4 noted that little had been done in that regard. Defence Counsels programmes were established, but with limited support resulting to their frequent absence at the assigned posts.[76]

45. Stating that most of the 2009 recommendations of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) were yet to be implemented,[77] JS4 recommended that Liberia seek international support to establish a War-crimes' Court to prosecute persons responsible for the serious crimes committed during the Liberian 14 years civil war as recommended by the TRC.[78]

46. Regarding the UPR recommendations on sexual and gender-based violence cases,[79] JS4 stated that these cases were politicized, especially when it involved relatives of politicians. It added that limited cases were conclusively prosecuted, while others could not go on due to the lack of evidences as the result of limited capacities to investigate cases.[80] JS3 stated that, while public reporting and police response had improved in recent years, efforts to prosecute cases of SGBV continue to be hampered by deficiencies in the judicial system.[81]

47. JS1 noted that a new rape law had been enacted that made rape a capital offence that was not jointly liable to another offence. It added that a Special Court for Rape and Other Forms of Violence had been set up while a Special SGBV Crime Unit had been created and was fully functioning within the Ministry of Justice. According to JS1, many rape cases including high profile ones have been prosecuted and perpetrators have been found guilty and sentenced.[82]

48. JS1 urged Liberia to empower its Special Court for Rape and Other Forms of Violence as well as the SGBV Unit, and implement appropriate national public awareness programmes to address violence against women.[83]

49. JS2 noted that as many prisoners remained unjustly detained without trial as it was before Liberia's first UPR, while the "fast track" court system, an important response to the problem, had failed due to a lack of funding.[84]

50. JS2 stated that the existing domestic legal framework addressing the problem of pre-trial detention remained significantly unenforced.[85] It noted that multiple factors had caused pre-trial detention problem such as the destruction of much of circuit courts' infrastructure during the Liberian conflict; lack of financial and infrastructure resources, including personnel; and lack of coordination between the police and the court system.[86] Furthermore, according to JS2, detainees are also often incarcerated for offenses that are not even crimes.[87]

51. JS2 mentioned that it was reported that in October 2013, the Ministry of Justice had released 200 inmates from the Monrovia Central Prison after a review of their records had showed that they had been held without indictment or trial for more than two court terms. It added that even taking this incident as a hopeful sign of future enforcement, prolonged pre-trial detention remained widespread.[88]

52. JS2 recommended that Liberia identify and immediately release detainees who have either been detained longer than the maximum sentence allowed for the crime for which they have been charged or have been detained without trial for more than two terms of court; enforce the Constitution's guarantee of the right to bail for detainees accused of all but the most serious crimes; enforce the provisions of the Criminal Code allowing convicts who have made progress toward reform to obtain parole.[89] It also recommended fully re-

instituting and expanding the "fast track" court system permitting detainees to submit their cases to magistrate judges and providing adequate funding for court personnel and basic infrastructure improvements to the court system.[90]

53. JS4 recommended that Liberia enact the prison reform bill and decongest prisons by establishing community justice mechanisms to handle cases of lesser criminal natures.[91]

54. Stating that the justice system remained corrupt and under-funded,[92] JS4 recommended that Liberia institute reforms in the Judiciary by investigating and prosecuting corrupt courts officials and workers.[93]

4. Freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly

55. JS5 highlighted the fact that the House of Representatives and the Senate had approved the Freedom of Information Act in July 2010 and September 2010 respectively, and that the President had signed the Declaration of Table Mountain in July 2012, which called for the annulment of criminal defamation and insult laws in Africa.[94] JS5 added that there had been a steady increase of private media houses and newspapers since the end of the conflict.[95]

56. Despite these positive developments in respecting freedom of expression, JS5 expressed concerns about the environment in which journalists and media representatives operated in the country. Journalists and newspapers are often accused of libel and defamation for publishing reports implicating Government's representatives in corruption and for criticising Government's actions. According to JS5, the Government has on several occasions banned newspaper publications and imposed a blackout on others for publishing critical and sensitive stories while arsonists have targeted radio stations destroying property and equipment. Attacks against the media increased during the elections in 2011 as media agencies considered to have pro-government or pro-opposition views were targeted by Government's supporters and those from the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC).[96]

57. ISHR noted that out-dated laws posed a serious threat to freedom of expression. It stated that there were few legal protections to ensure defamation judgments were not excessive, while appeals process effectively denied media centres and journalists the right to appeal a defamation ruling.[97]

58. ISHR stated that, despite legal frameworks, the right to freedom of expression and access to information were only weakly protected in practice, and libel and defamation laws were used to silence dissent. According to ISHR, civil society actors have received excessive libel fines, while local newspapers have been subject to libel lawsuits of at least US$ 5 million filed against them by the State.[98]

59. JS5 stated that the police was involved in several incidents in July and August 2014: the arrest and detention of two members of staff of the National Chronicle[99] and of a journalist of the Nation Times newspaper;[100] the questioning and intimidation of the editor of Women Voices[101] as well as the detention and beating of a journalist of Front Page Africa.[102] JS5 also reported that in 2012, a journalist from Monrovia had been threatened with death following the publication of an article on female genital mutilation[103] and a journalist of the New Dawn newspaper had been threatened and assaulted by a police officer.[104]

60. JS5 noted that the authorities had imposed additional restrictions on the media in their efforts to combat the spread of the Ebola disease between August and September 2014. Police deliberately switched off the power sources of one newspaper preventing publication, closed down others and targeted journalists who write critical pieces about the misappropriation of funds meant to combat the spread of the disease. While recognising the

need for the Government to take appropriate measures to halt the spread of the Ebola virus. JS5 stated that the media was a critical player in efforts to stop the spread of the virus and should not be targeted.[105]

61. ISHR noted that in 2013, the editor Rodney Sieh had been arrested and imprisoned for several weeks. His investigative newspaper, Front Page Africa, was temporarily closed, which raised concerns about the freedom of the media to publish articles critical of the Government.[106] JS5 made a similar comment.[107]

62. JS5 reported that in November 2011, following their coverage of demonstrations calling for a boycott of the run-off elections, armed police closed down Kings FM, Clar TV, Love FM and Shiata Power FM after an injunction had been imposed by the court. Government representatives accused the media houses of fomenting protests using "hate speech".[108] According to JS5, violent acts against the media were carried out by supporters of both the ruling party and the political opposition particularly in the run-up to the second round of the elections.[109]

63. JS5 recommended that Liberia fully investigate threats to journalists and representatives of the media with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice; desist from making public threats to journalists and representatives of the media and condemn publicly attacks on and threats to journalists and government critics to ensure protection by law enforcement agencies. It also recommended avoiding the tendency to discredit and stigmatise the legitimate activities of journalists who should operate in a safe environment without any fear of reprisals from government officials and members of the ruling party for criticising Government policies and actions.[110]

64. ISHR noted that in its last UPR, Liberia had not received any specific recommendations on human rights defenders, and it had not accepted three recommendations to protect civil society space.[111]

65. ISHR stated that with no specific law to protect human rights defenders, and few measures taken to reinforce civil society, the impact of the estimated 1,000 NGOs tended to be relatively weak. It added that in the absence of a protective legal or policy framework, human rights defenders were vulnerable and frequently subject to arbitrary arrest and detention, lengthy imprisonment and even torture.[112]

66. ISHR stated that LGBT activists such as Archie Ponpon had faced violent reactions from the public because of their activism. His mother's home was set alight in February 2012 and she has been in hiding since then. Mr. Abraham Kamara was also reportedly stoned and attacked by angry students at the University of Liberia. ISHR added that human rights defenders who worked on issues of corporate accountability, including those who worked on issues related to the palm oil industry and land grabbing were particularly vulnerable to defamation, criminalisation and attacks. According to ISHR, the President of Liberia has accused community activists working on such issues of stifling economic growth and investment, labelling their resistance to land grabbing "harassment and extortion of investors".[113]

67. ISHR recommended that Liberia develop and enact specific laws and policies to recognise and protect the work of human rights defenders and which give full force and effect to the international Declaration on human rights defenders at the national level. It also recommended demonstrating strong, high-level political support for human rights defenders through public statements by State officials, including the President, which recognise their important and legitimate work. ISHR recommended that Liberia refrain from criminalising the legitimate activities of human rights defenders and repeal all laws and policies that restrict their activities and rights. Specifically, repeal out-dated defamation and libel laws, ensure the protection of journalists and human rights defenders from excessive judgments, and guarantee their right to appeal these judgments.[114]

68. JS5 was concerned about restrictions on freedom of assembly despite constitutional guarantees and the use of violence to counter peaceful protests. According to JS5, freedom of assembly was particularly threatened during protests against the results of the first round of elections in October 2011.[115] Police clashed with supporters of the opposition CDC party who had demonstrated against the result of the elections; one protester was killed and several others injured.[116]

69. JS5 stated that on 20 August 2014, police had used live ammunition and tear gas to disperse peaceful protests against a quarantine to contain the spread of the Ebola virus in West Point, Liberia's largest slum. Hundreds of West Point residents demonstrated against the quarantine and four people sustained injuries as the police used force to disperse them.[117]

70. JS5 recommended that Liberia adopt best practices on freedom of peaceful assembly prescribed by Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; equip security forces in charge of crowd control with non-lethal weapons and provide training across the board on humane means of crowd control as well as on the UN Basic Principles on the use of Force and Firearms. It also recommended providing recourse for judicial review and effective remedy including compensation in cases of unlawful denial of the right to freedom of assembly by state authorities.[118]

5. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

71. Regarding UPR recommendations on poverty reduction,[119] JS4 stated that the living conditions of Liberians continued to decline due to neglect by the Government. According to JS4, the health system is poor, the food is inadequate, the education system is below minimum standards and housing is absent.[120]

72. JS4 recommended that Liberia re-distribute the country's wealth generated by natural resources and have citizens to participate in the decision-making of the resources' usage.[121]

73. Stating that little had been done regarding the implementation of UPR recommendations on social protection,[122] JS4 recommended that Liberia enact a practical and strong social protection law.[123]

6. Right to health

74. JS3 stated that the impact of the Ebola crisis on people living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTI and sexual minorities was noticeable, as there had been a breakdown in the health care delivery system with limited or no alternative measures to services, especially treatment.[124]

75. JS3 noted that one solution to dealing with the issue of limited full services to women health, people living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTI, sexual minorities, and other key populations was for the Liberia Initiative for the Promotion of Rights, Independence, Diversity, and Equality (LIPRIDE) to establish a safe house. According to JS3, a safe house will resolve many issues and problems associated with prevention, care provision, examination and treatment for HIV and other sexual infections.[125]

7. Right to education

76. Although Liberia had accepted UPR recommendations on human rights training in schools[126], JS4 noted that this issue was completely neglected. It recommended that Liberia make human rights education a part of the schools' curriculum.[127]

77. Regarding the UPR recommendations on women and children's rights,[128] JS4 stated that the Government had made no effort in initiating women and children rights education and awareness at the grassroots (in schools, street corners, markets, etc.).[129]

8. Right to development, and environmental issues

78. ISHR recommended that Liberia provide safe spaces for meaningful civil society participation in the development and implementation of relevant laws and policies, in particular guaranteeing the free, prior and informed consultation of communities affected by economic and development projects. It also recommended developing and implementing a national action plan on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights at home and abroad, which include policies and measures to protect and support human rights defenders who work on issues of corporate accountability.[130]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org

Civil society

Individual submissions:

Equality Now	Equality Now, Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya;
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishments of Children, London, United Kingdom;
ISHR	International Service for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland.

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by the International Federation by Christians for the Abolition of the Torture (FIACAT), Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture in Liberia (ACAT-Liberia), World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Paris, France and Gballasuah, Liberia;
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by the Advocates for Human Rights, Law Promotes Social Change and LIPWA, Inc.; Minneapolis, United States of America;
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by the Liberia Initiative for the Promotion of Rights, Independence, Diversity, and Equality (LIPRIDE Coalition): Action Aid Liberia, Stop AIDs In Liberia (SAIL), Liberia Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN), Association of Liberian People Living with HIV and AIDS (ALL+), National Association of Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (NATPAH), Lesbian and Gay Association Liberia (LEGAL), Liberian National Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (LIBNEP+), United Sisters Leadership Institute for Women (LIW), Anti-AIDS Media Network , Youth and Adolescents Living with HIV and AIDS (YAL+), Monrovia, Liberia;
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by the Liberia Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (LICHRD): Association of Disable Female International (ADFI); Centre for Democratic empowerment (CEDE); Centre for Transparency & Natural Resource Governance (CETNARG);Civic Initiative; Community Development Foundation (CDF); Forum For Advocacy of Civic Education (FACE); Foundation for Democracy In Liberia (FDL); Foundation Grass Roots (FORGE); Human Concern Inc.; Human Rights Network Foundation; Institute for Peace Education and Democracy (IPEAD); Liberia Civil & Human Rights Alliance; Liberia Research and Development Agency (LIRDA); Media Against Arm Violence (MAAV); Movement for Indigenous Women of Liberia (MOIWORL); National Concern Youth of Liberia (NACYOL); National Institute for Public Opinion (NIPO); New Generation for Legal Response and Development (NEGLERD); New Liberia Foundation; Parental Care Liberia (PCL); People Empowerment Program (PEP-Liberia); RADIO; Rescue Alternatives Liberia (RAL); Research and Documentation Centre on Human Rights; Rural and Development Organization (RADO) INC; United Women in Action For Development (UNIWAD); Voice Against Violence; Women Solidarity; Women Recovery Initiatives (WORI); Women's Rights and Democracy (WORD Centre), Monrovia, Liberia;
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation and National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCL), Johannesburg, South Africa and Monrovia, Liberia.

[2] JS1, part I.

[3] JS1, part I, para. A.

[4] JS1, part I, para. A.

[5] JS4, p. 3.

[6] JS4, p. 4.

[7] JS3, p. 4.

[8] JS3, p. 10. See also JS4, p. 10.
[9] JS3, p. 11. See also JS4, p. 10.
[10] JS3, p. 11.
[11] JS4, p. 10.
[12] JS3, p. 4.
[13] JS4, pp. 3 and 4.See A/HRC/16/3, paras. 77.11, 77.12, 77.14, 77.15.
[14] JS4, p. 4.
[15] ISHR, p. 1.
[16] ISHR, para. 5.
[17] ISHR, p. 2.
[18] JS1, part I, para. C.
[19] JS1, part I, para. C.
[20] ISHR, para. 6.
[21] JS4, p. 4.
[22] JS3, p. 5.
[23] JS3, p. 4.
[24] JS1, part I.
[25] JS1, part I, para. B.
[26] JS1, part I, para. B.
[27] JS1, Introduction. See also JS3, p.3.
[28] JS1, part I, para. C.
[29] JS4, p. 5.
[30] JS5, para. 4.3.
[31] ISHR, para. 6.
[32] Equality Now, para.13.
[33] Equality Now, para.14.
[34] Equality Now, para. 16.
[35] Equality Now, para. 18.
[36] Equality Now, para. 19.
[37] JS3, p. 3. See also p. 8.
[38] JS3, p. 4. See also p. 8.
[39] JS3, p. 9. See also p. 8.
[40] JS3, p.5.
[41] JS3, p. 8.
[42] ISHR, para. 6.
[43] JS4, p. 2.
[44] JS1, part III.
[45] JS1, part III.
[46] JS1, part II, para. A.
[47] JS1, part II, para. A.
[48] See A/HRC/16/3, paras 77. 24 and 77.25.
[49] JS4, p. 7.
[50] JS1, part II, para. B.
[51] JS2, paras 19 and 20.
[52] JS4, p. 2.
[53] JS2, para. 4. See A/HRC/16/3, paras 77.26, 77.27, 77.28, 77.41, 77.44 and 77.46.
[54] JS2, para. 1.
[55] JS4, p. 7.
[56] JS1, part II, para. B.
[57] JS1, part II, para. C.
[58] JS3, p. 10.
[59] Equality Now, para. 3.
[60] Equality Now, para. 4.
[61] Equality Now, para. 6.
[62] Equality Now, para. 11.
[63] Equality Now, para. 12.

[64] See also JS3, p. 9.
[65] Equality Now, para. 17.
[66] JS3, p. 9.
[67] JS4, p. 6.
[68] JS1, part I, para. B.
[69] GIEACPC, para. 1.1.
[70] GIEACPC, para. 2.2.
[71] GIEACPC, para. 2.4.
[72] GIEACPC, para. 2.7.
[73] GIEACPC, para. 2.3.
[74] GIEACPC, para. 1.4.
[75] See A/HRC/16/3, paras 77.40, 77.41, 77.42, 77.47, 77.48, 77.49 and 77.50.
[76] JS4, p. 5.
[77] JS4, p. 2. See also JS3, pp. 4 and 5.
[78] JS4, p. 9.
[79] See A/HRC/16/3, paras 77.32 and 77.35.
[80] JS4, p. 6.
[81] JS3, p. 11.
[82] JS1, part I, para. B.
[83] JS1, part I, para. B.
[84] JS2, para. 1.
[85] JS2, para. 7.
[86] JS2, para. 16.
[87] JS2, para. 18.
[88] JS2, para. 12.
[89] JS2, para. 24.
[90] JS2, para. 25.
[91] JS4, p. 8.
[92] JS4, pp. 2-3.
[93] JS4, p. 5.
[94] See also ISHR, para. 1.
[95] JS5, para. 1.4.
[96] JS5, para. 1.5.
[97] ISHR, para. 2.
[98] ISHR, para. 1.
[99] JS5, para. 2.2.
[100] JS5, para. 2.5.
[101] JS5, para. 2.3.
[102] JS5, para. 2.4.
[103] JS5, para. 2.8.
[104] JS5, para. 2.9.
[105] JS5, para. 1.6.
[106] ISHR, para. 2.
[107] JS5, para. 2.6.
[108] JS5, para. 2.10.
[109] JS5, para. 2.11.
[110] JS5, para. 4.1.
[111] ISHR, p. 1.
[112] ISHR, para. 1.
[113] ISHR, para. 4.
[114] ISHR, para. 6.
[115] JS5, para. 1.7.
[116] JS5, para. 3.3.
[117] JS5, para. 3.2.
[118] JS5, para. 4.2.
[119] See A/HRC/16/3, paras 77.55, 77.56, 77.57, 77.60 and 77.63.

[120] JS4, p. 9.
[121] JS4, p. 9.
[122] See A/HRC/16/3, paras 77.54, 77.38 and 77.39.
[123] JS4, p. 7.
[124] JS3, p. 9.
[125] JS3, p. 9.
[126] See A/HRC/16/3, paras 77.16 and 77.66.
[127] JS4, p. 8.
[128] See A/HRC/16/3, paras. 77.31, 77.33 and 77.4.
[129] JS4, p. 6.
[130] ISHR, para. 6.